Forerunners of a voluminous class of Chinese literature, local gazetteers, appeared, modeled on the *Ck'un Ch'iu.* Histories were written, some of them in the style of Ssii-ma Ch'ien's great work. Cartography developed. Works on botany began to be written.

A form of writing was developed, the *p'ien t'i,* or parallel style, by which sentences were so arranged that the meanings and sounds of words were balanced in pairs.

Great libraries were collected under state supervision, and although they were usually scattered or burned in the political upheavals of the times, the love of books never died out and numbers of the writings of the past survived. Some ancient literature, moreover, was conserved in anthologies of prose and poetry collected during these years.

Modifications were made in the bureaucracy developed under the Ch'in and the Han. It has been suggested that from this period dates the sharp division between military and civil officials. According to this theory the non-Chinese rulers often found it wise to continue the bureaucracy inherited from the Han and to fill its posts with Chinese. As military conquerors, however, they were inclined to restrict the functions of this bureaucracy to civil matters and to reserve posts in the army to their own people. To insure this control, they would in part parallel the civil bureaucracy with a set of military officers. This hypothesis is doubtful. Long before the period of disunion some officials existed whose duties were purely civil and some whose functions were military. It is possible, however, that the accentuation of the difference may have come about in the fashion described. Feudalism and the division of the state into numerous principalities

again raised their heads—as was inevitable in periods when the central government was weak. Powerful aristocratic families rather than those who had come up through free competition in the civil service examinations tended to monopolize the chief offices. More than once, however, a strong ruler attempted to enforce his authority through some form of organization which showed the influence of the models of the past.

Innovations appeared in other phases of life. The wheelbarrow and the water mill appeared. For the first time we hear of sedan chairs and dice. Coal began to be used.